

## Recreational Shrimping in South Carolina

Regulations as described in the Marine Resources Act of 2000

### WITHOUT BAIT

- Legal gear includes cast nets, drop nets, or shrimp seines. Shrimp seines may not be anchored and must have a mesh size of at least 1" stretched mesh but no larger than 1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>". Shrimp seines may be no longer than 40 feet or deeper than 6 feet. Mechanical power may not be used to move the seine through the water.
- Effective **July 1, 2003**, tan bags will no longer be allowed in shrimp seines.
- Catch limit is 48 quarts of whole shrimp or 29 quarts of headed shrimp per boat or person if no boat is used. When a shrimp seine is being used, one limit is allowed a day among the people using the seine.
- From May 1 through December 15, no person may have more than 48 quarts of whole shrimp or 29 quarts of headed shrimp on the water or lands immediately adjacent to the waters of this State. From December 16 through April 30, no person may have more than 12 dozen live or dead shrimp on the waters of this State. When a boat is being used to catch these shrimp, only one limit is allowed among the people on that boat.
- Licensed charter vessels may have no more than 25 dozen live or dead shrimp between December 16 and April 30.

### WITH BAIT

- Between September 1 and November 15, the Department shall establish a 60-day season for taking shrimp over bait with a cast net.
- A shrimp baiting license is required, along with associated tags. The license must be in possession of the person while shrimping over bait. Licenses and tags may not be loaned, borrowed, or exchanged with another person.
- Each bait deposit must be marked by a pole up to 1" in diameter, driven into the ground, that has a Department issued tag attached to it. In addition, each pole must be marked with reflective tape.
- 10 poles per boat per day are allowed. Additional boats in tow may not be used to increase the daily pole limit. If no boat is used, 10 poles per person per day are allowed. No pole or poles may be left unattended.
- The distance between the first and the last pole may not exceed 100 yards. The minimum distance between sets of poles is at least 25 yards. Licensees may only fish those poles with tag numbers corresponding to their license number.
- No poles may be set within 50 yards of a dock or a public landing or boat ramp.
- The owner of a private dock or anyone with his written permission may take shrimp over bait from the dock as long as the Department-issued tag is clearly displayed on the dock.
- Catch limit is 48 quarts of whole shrimp or 29 quarts of headed shrimp per set of poles per day. Possession limit is 96 quarts of whole shrimp or 58 quarts of headed shrimp while not in the waters or on lands immediately adjacent to the waters unless a bill of lading or receipt shows that the shrimp were purchased from a licensed retail or wholesale dealer.
- Effective July 1, 2002, no cast net can be used with a mesh size smaller than <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" square.

## **Florida Castnet Regulations (as stated in Title 68B of the Florida Administrative Code)**

### **68B-31.007 Statewide Recreational Shrimping Restrictions.**

Except for persons harvesting shrimp commercially as either a food shrimp producer or a live bait shrimp producer, each person harvesting shrimp in or on the waters of the state shall comply with the requirements specified in this rule.

**(1) Bag Limit –**

(a) No person shall harvest more than five gallons of shrimp, heads on, per day; provided, however, that two or more harvesters aboard a single vessel in or on the waters of the state shall be subject to the vessel possession limit specified in paragraph (b).

(b) The possession of more than five gallons of shrimp, heads on, aboard a vessel in or on the waters of the state or on any dock, pier, bridge, beach, or other fishing site adjacent to such waters, at any time is prohibited.

(c) All shrimp harvested pursuant to this rule shall be landed in a whole condition. The de-heading of such shrimp before landing is prohibited.

**(2) Allowable Gear –** No person subject to the requirements of this rule shall use any type of gear to harvest shrimp other than those types of gear specified herein:

(a) Landing or dip net with an opening no larger than 96 inches around the perimeter.

**(b) Cast net with a stretched length (the distance from the horn at the center of the net, with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line) no greater than 14 feet.**

(c) Push net.

(d) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., one frame net with an opening no larger than 16 feet around the perimeter, if deployed from a vessel or from a structure other than an operational bridge or causeway or catwalk attached to such bridge or causeway.

2. Frame nets shall not be considered an allowable gear for persons harvesting shrimp pursuant to this rule in any waters of the Southeast Region in Dade County.

(e) Shrimp traps not exceeding 36 inches in length (from the rear of the heart to the leading edge of the trap), 24 inches in width (between the leading edges of the trap, or heart opening), and 12 inches in height and not containing external or unattached wings, weirs or other devices intended to funnel shrimp to the trap heart.

1. A shrimp trap meeting these specifications, regardless of configuration, shall not be considered a pound net.

2. The user's name and address must be securely affixed to each trap; any trap lacking proper identification will be confiscated by the Commission.

3. No more than four shrimp traps shall be used at any one time.

4. Unattended shrimp traps are prohibited on or attached to beaches, causeways, seawalls, bridges, or any other structures open for use by the public. Any such trap which is not attended by the person whose name is affixed to the trap will be considered abandoned and may be seized.

(f) Beach or haul seine with a mesh area no larger than 500 square feet.

**(3) Baiting – A person harvesting shrimp pursuant to this rule may use a cast net in conjunction with nonmetal poles to bait shrimp if such use is in compliance with the following restrictions.**

**(a) No more than 5 poles shall be set at any one time by any person.**

**(b) Each pole may not exceed one inch in diameter.**

(c) Poles shall be driven into the bottom, set no closer than 10 yards apart, and the distance between the first and last pole shall not exceed 50 yards.

(d) Poles shall only be set, fished, and retrieved during daylight hours. The term “daylight hours” means the period beginning 1/2 hour before official sunrise and continuing through 1/2 hour after official sunset, each day. All poles shall be removed each day by 1/2 hour after official sunset.

(e) Each pole shall be marked with white reflective tape.

(f) No pole shall be set within 50 yards of any dock, pier, public boat landing or ramp, seawall, jetty, or bridge.

(g) Poles shall be tended at all times. The term “tend” means that the harvester is within 100 yards of the nearest pole at all times.

(h) Persons harvesting shrimp by this method shall be subject to the bag limit specified in subsection (1).

*Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 1-1-92, Amended 1-1-96, 6-3-96, Formerly 46-31.007, Amended 12-2-99, 3-1-05.*

**68B-31.015 Northeast Florida Shrimping: Definition.**

For purposes of Section 370.153, Florida Statutes, the term “daylight hours” means the period beginning 1/2 hour before official sunrise and continuing through 1/2 hour after official sunset, each day.

*Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 1-1-92, Amended 1-1-96, Formerly 46-31.015.*